

the President has shown a complete lack of leadership in helping them.

With the Clinton administration sitting on the sidelines as our family farmers struggle, Congress is taking swift action to protect our family farmers for many years to come, also with respect to the current disaster situation.

Yesterday, I was pleased to join members of the House leadership in announcing the \$3.9 billion agriculture relief package to address crop disaster losses. Also on yesterday, the House Committee on Ways and Means passed a tax package that is going to be very beneficial from a long range perspective for all small business people including farmers.

These relief measures will place real money into our farmers' hands in a time of great need. It is incumbent upon the Clinton administration to get off the sidelines and join Congress in swiftly approving this much needed disaster package.

#### HELP THE AMERICAN FARMER

(Mr. LATHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the actions that the administration has taken in their budget proposal this year with the farm crisis going on.

I spoke yesterday about the \$573 million tax increase that they propose to put on our livestock farmers who are dying out there today. Also, I would like to point out what they are doing to help the grain farmer and the person trying to do conservation work.

In their budget proposal, they want to tax people for the information to find out how to comply with the programs. So when you go into the NRCS office or you go to the FSA office, bring your checkbook because the administration says they are going to charge you to get information from you. It is outrageous.

I would just like to tell the Secretary of Agriculture and this administration, they have taken enough out of the hide of the American farmer, and they better go to work and try to help them rather than to continue to tax them and put them out of business.

#### MEDI-SCARE ALL OVER AGAIN

(Mr. THUNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, how destructive it is to honest debate to hear our liberal friends one after another claim that tax relief for farmers and ranchers will threaten Social Security. How incredibly dishonest, misleading and, yes, typical to be hearing those accusations.

Can someone on the other side please explain to me how it is that spending does not threaten Social Security but tax relief does?

How ironic that the party that does not bat an eyelash about spending billions and billions of dollars in failed welfare programs and wasteful bureaucracies, without uttering a peep about its impact on Social Security, now claims the tax relief for farmers and ranchers and families is going to threaten Social Security.

How ironic that the party that did not put one dime aside for 40 years to save Social Security now claims that they are interested in protecting the Social Security Trust Fund.

It is pure politics. It is a perfect example of how the other side plays the game.

Mislead seniors, again; oppose tax cuts, nothing new there; and accuse Republicans of undermining the very system that they are trying to reform. It is Medi-scare all over again. How sad.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LANTOS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. COBURN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. MINGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MINGE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

#### THE STEEL IMPORT CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a concurrent resolution today, along with 76 of my colleagues as original cosponsors, which calls on the Administration to take all necessary measures to respond to the surge of steel imports resulting from the financial crises occurring in Asia, Russia and in other areas of the world.

In two briefings held last Thursday and today, the Congressional Steel Caucus heard from top executives of the large integrated steel companies, from the President of the United Steelworkers of America and top ex-

ecutives of other steel industry sectors. The news is not good. Steel imports are pouring into the United States at very low prices and are threatening the existence of the U.S. steel industry and the jobs of persons working in this important industry. And I should remind everyone that every job in the steel industry also supports numerous jobs in terms of suppliers and downstream industries.

We should not be faced with this situation—the U.S. steel industry and its workers have sacrificed over the last decade and have invested heavily to make this industry the most competitive in the world. Demand for steel is high and the industry is lean and competitive. But the industry and the jobs of its workers are being threatened by unfairly priced and unfairly traded steel imports.

Between June of 1997 and June of 1998, steel imports to the U.S. from Russia increased 45.8 percent; from Korea, 89.5 percent; from Japan, 113 percent; and from Indonesia, 308 percent. There are indications that these import figures will grow even larger in the third quarter of 1998.

We are asking that the Administration take the following immediate actions to help stem these injurious imports: (1) to pursue enhanced enforcement of U.S. trade laws to protect the domestic steel industry and its jobs; (2) to pursue all available remedies to ensure a more equitable sharing by other nations of the burden of accepting these imports; (3) to establish a task force to closely monitor steel imports into the U.S.; and (4) to report to Congress by January 5, 1999 on a comprehensive plan for responding to this import crisis.

We cannot stand by and lose this vital U.S. industry and these important jobs as foreign nations attempt to export their way out of their own economic woes.

#### TAX RELIEF LEGISLATION FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, there is a crisis in rural America. Yesterday, we announced a \$3.9 billion relief package, which I hope will start us down the path toward recovery. Next week, the House will vote on important tax relief legislation for America's farmers and ranchers.

Now, I just want to warn the American people about one thing, because these are some of the ploys that are going to be used by our liberal friends. The argument is going to be made over and over again, by an endless parade of folks from the other side, that the Republicans are raiding Social Security to give tax cuts to their rich friends. I have got to admit, the other side is not creative but they are predictable: Try and scare older Americans.

The fact of the matter is, and make no mistake about it, that these are the same folks who ran the House for 40 years and did not put one dime into the Social Security trust fund. On the other hand, our leadership has committed that 90 percent of the surplus, or \$1.4 trillion, will be walled off and put aside for Social Security.